GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3130
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
EXPLORATION POLICY FOR MINERALS
WANGCHA RAJKUMAR

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a): whether any policy initiatives have been recently taken to explore the deposits of coal and minerals in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the present status of exploration and findings, State-wise;

(c): whether the Government propose to help and render cooperation to these States for undertaking these ventures and also to obtain the clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the projects undertaken / to be undertaken by these State Governments;

(d) whether in certain cases the Ministry of Environment and Forests have created hurdles in clearing the mining projects of these States, particularly in mining of coal belts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL & MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

(a): No separate policy has been framed to explore the deposits of coal and minerals in the North Eastern States.

(b): However, as a result of exploration efforts, geological reserves of 909.74 Mt. of coal in NE region have been established as assessed by GSI (as on 1-1-2002). The State- wise geological reserves in the NE region are given as under:-

(In million tonnes)

State	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
Assam	279.30	26.83	34.01	340.14
Arunachal Pradesh	31.23	40.11	18.89	90.23
Meghalaya	117.83	40.89	300.71	459.43
Nagaland	3.43	1.35	15.16	19.94
Total for NE region.	431.79	109.18	368.77	909.74

(c) to (e): Government is helping these states by way of providing funds for exploration which is carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL).

Mining companies and exploration agencies take the necessary forest and EMP clearance from the concerned authorities. No clearance is pending with Forest Department as well as Environment Department in respect of North Eastern Coalfields of CIL.